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ABSTRACT

This book describes the research process in order to facilitate understanding of the process and its products, especially as they pertain to early childhood education. It examines both quantitative and qualitative research methods, emphasizing ways in which they can be used together to fully study a given phenomenon or topic. Chapter 1 examines research and its role in early childhood education. Chapter 2 presents additional fundamental elements related to research, as well as a schematic of the principal types of research currently in use. General procedures in conducting research are considered, along with the determination of research topics, hypotheses, and variables. Types or methods of quantitative research are described in chapter 3, as well as procedures for users to critique such research. Measurement in quantitative research forms the nucleus of chapter 4, and data analysis methods are briefly described. Chapter 5 presents different types of qualitative research, while instrumentation and analysis in qualitative research and guidelines for critiquing such research is the focus of chapter 6. The final chapter focuses on the integration of quantitative and qualitative research in an effort to generate knowledge in early childhood education. Emphasis is placed on the complementary nature of both orientations and their measurement and analysis procedures. Contains over 200 references. (TJQ)

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